



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

January 2014

Dear Health Care Provider:

I am writing to you to let you know about a recent change in the infant formulas that may affect your patients who participate in the Maryland WIC Program. Abbott Nutrition, the manufacturer of Similac products, is changing the formulation of most of their standard infant formulas, resulting in a decrease in caloric density from 20 kcal/fl oz to 19 kcal/fl oz. The affected formulas include: Similac Sensitive for Fussiness and Gas, Similac Total Comfort, Similac for Spit-Up and some container sizes of Similac Advance.

As you know, Abbott Nutrition holds the infant formula contract for milk-based WIC formulas in Maryland. Because of this change in formulation, these formulas no longer meet the minimum requirements and specifications for infant formula under federal WIC regulations. Consequently, please note the following changes for your patients who participate in the Maryland WIC Program:

- **As of January 1, 2014 Maryland WIC no longer authorizes Similac Sensitive for Fussiness and Gas or Similac Total Comfort for new WIC participants.**
- For WIC participants already consuming **Similac Sensitive for Fussiness and Gas or Similac Total Comfort**, we will encourage the transition to Similac Advance (which will still provide 20 kcal/fl oz in most container sizes) or, as appropriate, Enfamil Prosobee. We will only be able to approve the continued issuance of Similac Sensitive for Fussiness and Gas or Similac Total Comfort with appropriate medical documentation from a health care provider.
- In order for WIC participants to continue receiving Similac Sensitive for Fussiness and Gas, they must obtain medical documentation **by April 1**.
- In order for WIC participants to continue receiving Similac Total Comfort, they must obtain medical documentation **by June 1**.
- Similac for Spit-Up will continue to require medical documentation.

Infant conditions that may warrant the use of Similac Sensitive for Fussiness and Gas or Similac Total Comfort include documented formula intolerances, food allergies or inappropriate growth patterns. Similac for Spit-Up will continue to be issued only for a diagnosis of uncomplicated gastroesophageal reflux (GER) or esophagitis. **When considering a recommendation for these formulas, please keep in mind that they will provide only 19 kcal/fl oz.**

Toll Free 1-877-4MD-DHMH – TTY/Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258

Web Site: [www.dhmh.state.md.us](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us)

A revised Maryland WIC Program Medical Documentation Form is enclosed for your use in requesting specialized formulas, toddler formulas, or other changes in the WIC food package due to a medical diagnosis. This form will be available in the Health Care Providers section of the Maryland WIC Program website [www.mdwic.org](http://www.mdwic.org).

Your cooperation in encouraging the use of WIC contract formulas (Similac Advance and Enfamil Prosobee) for your WIC-eligible infants who need standard milk- or soy-based formulas enables us to serve many more participants. We thank you for your support of the Maryland WIC Program and your promotion and support of breastfeeding. Please use our toll-free number: 1-800-242-4WIC to contact your local WIC agency or the State WIC Office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqueline Marlette-Boras". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Jacqueline Marlette-Boras, MHS, RD, LDN  
Director  
Maryland WIC Program